MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved.

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *Britiſh* Trade, &c.

From **Thurſday**, December 24. to **Saturday**, December 26. 1713.

The Oppoſers of the Treaty of Commerce reſolved to take up their OLD SCHEME *out of the Dirt, and to juſtify it.*
The Mercator *has already, in former Papers, Expoſed and Detected that Scheme of Falſhood and Forgery.*
They never made any Anſwer to what was then ſaid by the Mercator ; *ſo it is expected they will do it now.*
The Mercator *leaves them and his Friend* Backſtroke *to fight it out, only wiſhes it could be done with Temper and Decency.*
The firſt Letter on this Subject.

THE *MERCATOR* having given an Account of ſeveral Letters received from the ſame Perſon who ſent the laſt Letters printed in this Paper, and which Claim to be made Publick, he could not decline leaving room for them, as well for the ſake of the Subject, as the Perſon writing.

It could hardly have been imagin'd, that the Oppoſers of the Treaty of Commerce would have taken upon them the Defence of their old Scheme which they ſo juſtly were aſhamed of at firſt, and which is ſo manifeſtly Detected of Forgery and Deceit, that no Man whoſe Reputation was of one Shilling Value to him, could think of Vindicating it.

But theſe Men have undertaken it; and here is a Perſon has taken them up: If he and ſo good a Cauſe put together, are not an Overmatch for the greateſt Force they can bring, including all their Noiſe and beaſtly Raillery, the *MERCATOR* will be very much miſtaken.

The SCHEME is a Forgery of ſo groſs a Nature, that it has been obſerved, the greateſt Friends of that Party have been glad to get rid of it upon any Terms; and it was happily for them laid aſleep pretty much, no-body pretending ſo much as to mention it lately. But theſe Men have revived it in the aſſurance of a certain Power they have, to make the People they have to do with ſwallow the groſſeſt Forgeries, and believe, even againſt their Senſes, and againſt the plaineſt Demonſtrations.

The *MERCATOR* having in the beginning of theſe Papers, given his Opinion of this Scheme, and laid down clear Evidence of its being ſpurious, to which he refers the Reader, No. 2. No. 11. and in many others, only obſerves, that the Writers on the other Side never gave any Reply to thoſe plain Evidences againſt the Scheme, but in general, that they had no Hand in making it; that it was never in their Intention to juſtify the ſaid Scheme, and the like: Perhaps they may try to Anſwer thoſe Charges now, and clear that ſpurious Scheme from the Crime of Fraud and Cheat, whereof it ſtands Indicted. The *MERCATOR* is in no pain for what they will do of this kind, but calmly leaves them to the Correction of their own Folly, which, he doubts not, they will have from theſe following Letters. He only wiſhes the Debates of theſe Things could be carried on with more Calmneſs, Temper and Decency; but he finds it impoſſible, ſo muſt give them their own way.

To the Mercator.

SIR,

'I did not queſtion but my laſt Letters to you would alarm the Club, and rouze them up with ſuch Fury, 'that they would run at the ſtumbling Block before 'them as Men half aſleep, and haſtily wak'd run againſt 'the next Poſt that ſtands in their way.

'I told you, they were hardned now to a degree to 'undertake any thing that came athwart them: A true 'Bandity, that ſtand ready to Stab or Aſſaſſinate any 'thing they are hired for.

'Indeed, they have the beſt Encouragement that 'ever Men had for ſuch a Work; for they have a 'Party to Talk for who are willing to be Cheated, 'prepared to receive and drink in, believe, and *whe-'ther they believe it or no*, hand about the groſſeſt De-'luſions in the World: As an inſtance of this, we are 'come now to have the OLD SCHEME defended; a 'bold Work! and fit for ſuch bold Undertakers! for 'a greater and more impudent Cheat was never put 'upon any Nation in the World, except now, by thoſe 'who knowing it to be ſo, have attempted to Paum it 'upon the Houſe of Commons a ſecond time.

'I confeſs, when firſt I read their Papers, I thought 'they did but jeſt with you; I could not believe there 'was a Face ſo hardned in the World, that could ſtand 'up without Bluſhing, and ſay he would defend a meer 'Collection of Falſhood, a Body of Lying; a thing ſo 'openly Detected of Fraud and Cheat, that for ſo many 'Months no Man had a word to ſay for it, and a thing 'which no Man can with a ſpark of Honeſty have a 'word to ſay for now.

'But ſince theſe Men have loſt all Shame, and think 'they can carry all before them by Bullying, giving ill 'Language, and facing us down againſt Reaſon and 'Matter of Fact, I freely join Iſſue with them, and dare 'them to clear this Scheme of being a notorious Cheat, 'a premeditated contrived piece of Villany; and I un-'dertake directly and clearly to prove my Charge upon 'it. What they are to be eſteemed who undertake its 'Defence, let the World judge; their Work is ſo black, 'their Character muſt needs be like it.

'After all the black things they have endeavoured to 'caſt upon your Paper, it has been thought ſtrange you

'would

'would never let the World have a little Specimen of the People who are the Actors of it all. That they are a Society, a select Sett of Men enflamed for the Work, is better known, and their Persons also, than they imagine; and I may quickly proceed to give you a List of their Names, Characters and Measures, as well in other things as this; tho' you have spared them, I 'shall not be afraid to let the World know them.

'They began with an abominable Fraud, (viz.) The 'Scheme, and have ever since carried on their Argu-'ment with the same Art, and, which is remarkable, 'have suited the Choice both of Methods and Instru-'ments to their Work: One of their Hirelings, for 'they have many, is known for a Cheat, branded with 'Corruption, Partiality and Injustice, by the Votes of 'Two Sessions of Parliament, one who so well approved 'of Cheating Parliaments, that he was openly Voted 'Guilty of attempting to Cheat the Nation in the Elec-'tions themselves, and endeavouring to have a Parlia-'ment corruptly Chosen.

This Fact, tho' he wanted no Face to commit, yet he 'wanted Courage to show his Face to defend it, and 'therefore the Wretch fled twice from Parliamentary Ju-'stice, not daring to show himself after the House had 'ordered one HENRY MARTIN to be taken into 'Custody of their Sergeant at Arms, for ill Practices in 'the Election of Members of Parliament for the Bo-'rough of Southwark: *Vide the* Votes *of the Two last 'Sessions.*

'I should not have mentioned this Man, for I have 'nothing of Prejudice to the Person, tho' he has 'Treated Persons and Names, who never injur'd him, 'with all possible Indignity and Reproach. But is it 'not remarkable, that the Club should single out a 'Man to take up this dirty Cause, who had made him-'self infamous for publick Injustice in so flagrant a 'manner! and had betray'd the Liberties of his Country 'in his Endeavours to destroy the Freedom of Elections 'of Parliament! Is not this a likely Tool to act now in 'Behalf of the true Interest of Trade!

'I allow, That since such Men as these were the 'Agents pick'd out to Assault the *MERCATOR*, it 'was below the *MERCATOR* to take any Notice 'of them; and I had not broke in upon your Method, 'had not the amazing Front with which these People 'go back to lick up the Filth of their Forefathers, and 'to justify the most notorious Delusion of the OLD 'SCHEME, put me and all Mankind upon Examining 'where it was possible for them to find Tools for so 'scandalous a Drudgery.

'But finding they have rak'd the Sink of the Town 'to find Men qualified and hardned for the Work, I 'must beg Pardon of you for saying in my last Letter 'that I would make them asham'd; for, How can Men 'be asham'd that have not blush'd at attacking the Li-'berties of their Country in perverting the Freedom of 'Elections of Parliament? My Business therefore must 'be with the other part of what I promised you, (viz.) 'Since I cannot make them asham'd, I must *make the 'World asham'd of them*; and tho' you have declin'd 'this Work, I think to a Fault, letting them Rail, give 'the Lye, and all manner of abusive Language to Per-'sons by Name, and contented your self with only a 'soft Complaint, returning them nothing but Gentle 'Usage for the most Scurrilous Usage; you will see it 'is very necessary now to Treat these Men in their own 'way, and give them the Lash of their own Whip. 'When they do openly and avowedly either Father 'other Mens Lyes and Forgeries, or tell any of their 'own, they ought to be told so by Names and Sirnames, 'that the World may know them: And when they have 'so often called upon the *MERCATOR* to give a 'Years Ballance of the Trade to France, tho' you had 'once already clearly done it; I wonder you did not an-'swer, that you would undertake to give them another 'whenever the Cabal that carried on these furious At-'tacks against their Countries Trade would bring their 'Hireling out to answer to the Justice of the Parliament 'for the Iniquity of his Southwark Election.

'But these Men have Insulted the *MERCATOR* 'and the whole Nation in the Dispute about Trade, 'presuming upon their being Treated with good Man-'ners when they resolved to use none themselves.

'Well, now they have begun the Defence of the 'OLD SCHEME, and they bring in the Evidence of 'the Inspector-General, Dr. Davenant; we shall soon 'shew you how they carry it on.

'While they think Dr. Davenant favours them, they 'treat him tolerably well; but when, as I shall make 'appear, the Doctor is point-blank against them, we 'shall see how they will use him then.

'I will not dispute any thing the Inspector-General 'says; I allow what they say, (viz.) that he is the pro-'per Officer; but I demand to have it allow'd also, that 'the Commissioners of the Customs are proper Officers 'too, and capable to certify what is or is not a True 'Scheme from their own Books; and above all, that 'the Books themselves are a Record to try the Validity 'of what is said by one side or other: By this Law their 'Old Scheme must be Tried, and by this Law it will be Cast.

'First therefore I should present you with the Testimo-'ny of the said Commissioners as it was given in to the 'Parliament against this SCHEME, by which it is con-'demned as Fraudulent: And having left the Commis-'sioners Evidence upon Record, in my next Letter to 'you against these bold Adventurers, I shall leave them 'to chew upon it, and get off of it if they can; and 'then I shall enquire into what the *Inspector-General* says 'both of it and of the Makers of it: And if it should 'chance, as in most bad Cases it does, that the Evi-'dence they have brought in their Favour should be the 'very Evidence to Cast them, they will fall the more 'unpitied, and the antient Saying will be verified in 'them;

Qui Jupiter vult Perdere hos dementat.

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